STROBE Statement checklist for reports of observations studies

1 Title and Abstract (included in manuscript “Abstract” section)

Introduction

 2 Background (included in manuscript beginning of the “Introduction” section)

 3 Objective (included in the last sentence of “Introduction” as:

Therefore, the objective of the study was to determine the feasibility of ERAS implementation intervention in the rural context, by *tracking and describing* the organizational adoption of the protocol in addition to measuring Length-of-stay, cost, and complication rates.

Methods

 4 Present key elements of study design early in the paper (included in the “Methods”)

 5 Describe the setting, location, and relevant dates, including periods of recruitment, etc (included in “Methods”, ie/ 3 years prior and 2 years after implementation, location at Bassett Medical Center)

 6 Participants. Timeframe, and n given and eligibility described in “Methods” as:

All patients undergoing elective, non-emergent bowel resection within the study timeframe were eligible and de-identified.

 7 Variables and…

8 Data sources/measurement in “Methods” as:

Pre versus post differences in Length-of-stay (LOS) and surgical time were tested using the independent samples t test. Comparisons between patient characteristics in pre and post conditions were done by chi-square for categorical variables (eg gender, presence of comorbidities) or by the independent samples t test for continuous variables (eg age). All statistical analyses were carried out using SAS version 9.3.

9 Bias. In discussion. (Not randomized)

10 Study size. In methods:

Total study size was obtained post-intervention after accrual of patients equaled eligible patients, pre-intervention.

11 Quantitative variables in “Methods” as:

Data and measurements were obtained from electronic medical record documentation.

12 Statistical Methods in “Methods” as:

Pre versus post differences in Length-of-stay (LOS) and surgical time were tested using the independent samples t test. Comparisons between patient characteristics in pre and post conditions were done by chi-square for categorical variables (eg gender, presence of comorbidities) or by the independent samples t test for continuous variables (eg age). All statistical analyses were carried out using SAS version 9.3.

13 Participants. (included above in “Methods” section)

14 Descriptive Data, ie/ of study participants (These are all included in “Table 1”)

15 Outcome Data (included in “Table 2”)

16 Main results (included in “Table 2” and discussion)

17 Other analyses done (not applicable)

Discussion

 18 Key results. In second sentence:

Overall, the greatest effect of the Enhanced Recovery interventions was observed in decreased length of stay of 1.8 days on average…

 19+20 Limitations+Interpretation. Bias discussion is included.

 21 Generalizability. Included in Discussion:

The unique, complex nature of implementing these changes may also represent a limitation of generalizability to other organizations.

 22 Funding. Included in Declarations